

combination with one another, do not teach nor suggest the purpose of the claimed invention, Applicant respectfully submits that the claimed invention, as amended, patentably distinguishes over the prior art, including the art cited merely of record.

Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that its claims 1, 11, and 12, as amended, are in condition for allowance at this time, patentably distinguishing over the cited prior art. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and passage to allowance are respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney at (515) 288-2500 to discuss the claims in an effort to reach a mutual agreement with respect to claim limitations in the present application which will be effective to define the patentable subject matter if the present claims are not deemed to be adequate for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP VERSION OF CLAIMS

1. (amended) An improved beam member comprising:

- e) a pair of longitudinally extended and opposing flanges each of which are comprised of a central web section and a pair of inwardly extended leg sections on opposite sides of said central web section;
- f) a longitudinally extended web member interposed between said opposing pair of flanges and having a pair of longitudinally extended sides each of which are in contact engagement along the central web section of a corresponding one of said pair of opposing flanges;
- g) said web member comprising one or more convoluted sections with alternating protrusions that extend laterally and are adjacent along a portion thereof to a corresponding opposite pair of said leg sections of said flanges;
- h) means for securing said sides of said web member to said central web section of said flanges and for securing said protrusions to said adjacent leg sections of said flanges; and
- e) an end plate secured to said opposing flanges and to said web member thereby structurally protecting said beam member and providing for a full moment connection between two or more conjoined beam members.

11. (amended) An improved beam member comprising:

- h) a pair of opposing, generally C-shaped flanges, each of which comprises,

- i) a longitudinally extended central web section having a pair of opposite side portions,
- j) a pair of leg sections, one each of which extends inwardly from a corresponding one of said opposite side portions of said central web section and,
- k) an in-turned portion of each of said leg sections;
- l) an upright web interposed between said opposing flanges and having a pair of opposite side portions that are in contact engagement with a central web section of a corresponding one of said flanges;
- m) one or more convoluted sections of said web comprising laterally extended, alternating protrusions, any alternating pair of which substantially spans the distance between said pair of leg sections of each of said flanges;
- n) means for securing said side portions of said upright web to a corresponding one of said central web sections of said flanges and means for securing said protrusions to said leg sections; and
- h) an end plate secured to said opposing flanges and to said web member thereby structurally protecting said beam member and providing for the capability of [interconnecting] releasably securing a plurality of said beam members end to end, thereby creating an extended length beam member having the same strength as a single beam member of the same length, wherein said inwardly extending leg section of said opposing flanges are recessed by an amount equal to one-half of a thickness of said end plate.

12. A beam member as defined in claim 1, wherein the full moment connection includes the light-weight and high-strength beam member with the recessed end plate having the capability of releasably securing a plurality of beam members end to end, thereby creating an extended length beam member having the same strength as a single beam member of the same length.